

Frequently Asked Questions about ASM Annual Meetings

93rd Annual ASM Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Q: How many people attend the meeting?

A: The meeting size can range from 200-400 attendees.

Q: What is included in the conference fee?

A: This year's meeting will offer an exciting program with a featured speaker, three symposia, two plenary sessions, and two thematic sessions in addition to the diversity of high-quality contributed papers and posters. We are honored to include a featured presentation on climate change by Dr. James E. Hansen of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Symposia will cover topics of White-nose Syndrome in Bats, Ecological Niche Modeling, and Advances in Ungulate Biology, including a presentation by Keynote Speaker, Professor Colin Groves of the Australian National University. The two plenary sessions will feature student Honoraria and Fellowship recipients and the 2012 recipients of the ASM Grinnell, Merriam, and Leopold Awards—Dr. James H. Brown, Dr. James Estes, and Dr. Dean Biggins. The meeting program is listed here: <http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/mammalogists/program> In addition, refreshments will be offered at break times.

Q: Is formal professional attire required?

A: No. Despite the fact that our meetings in recent years have been held in convention centers, we are still pretty casual! Our member's attire will range from field casual to business casual. If you are presenting, business casual might be the better choice. Typically, more formal attire (suits, dresses) is worn (but not required) at the banquet.

Q: What is the first thing I should do after checking into the hotel?

A: Register in the Franklin B Foyer of the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Friday, 14 June, 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Saturday, 15 June, and 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. Here you will receive your name tag, program, information about the meeting and the city, tickets to the picnic and banquet (if you purchased them) and other 'extras'. **Then**, come to the Student Mixer at JW's in the hotel from 5-6 pm. There you will meet other students, get more information about the meeting, socialize, etc.

Q: Are there central meeting spaces?

A: Yes. Registration is in the Franklin B Foyer, and all the refreshment breaks during the meeting are in Franklin B. Not coincidentally, this is also where the posters will be, as people tend to congregate around food! Also look for message boards and job/graduate school boards near registration. The Student table near registration will also likely be a hub, as we have a lot of activities this year!

Q: What about the social events?

A: There are many, *many* social events which give conference participants a chance to meet and talk to new and old colleagues as well as ask questions that might have gone unanswered during the concurrent contributed paper sessions. Those events that require a prepaid ticket are designated (\$\$). Social events include:

Student Mixer—Friday June 14th 5:00-6:00 p.m.

All student members of the ASM are welcome to come and socialize with your friends and colleagues, and meet new student members. Enjoy a great selection of complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The Student Mixer is hosted by the Education and Graduate Students Committee. This year at the meeting we will introduce you to Meeting Mentors. The Mentors are other students and ASM members who have attended previous meetings and can answer your questions and help introduce you to ASM scientists you would like to meet during the opening reception or any time during the meeting.

New Member/Attendees Reception—Friday June 14th 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Members who have recently joined the ASM or are attending their first meeting are invited to this New Member/Attendees Reception to meet ASM members and other new members. Even if this isn't your first time to an ASM Annual Meeting or you are not a new member, feel free to stop by and welcome new members and new meeting attendees. Enjoy a great selection of complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The New Member/Attendee Reception is hosted by the Membership Committee.

Opening Night Reception—Friday June 14th 6:30-11:00 p.m.

Attendees will kick off the conference with an opening night reception. Enjoy the opportunity to socialize with friends, colleagues, and other conference attendees, and meet our 2013 exhibitors. Enjoy a great selection of complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Saturday Evening Social—Saturday June 15th 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Attendees are invited to socialize with other meeting attendees in the relaxed atmosphere of The Fieldhouse located one block away from the conference center. Light snacks and complimentary drink tickets will be provided.

Picnic (\$\$)—Sunday June 16th 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Join your friends and colleagues at the picnic at the Reading Terminal Market—a century old public farmers' market with an old world, historic setting. The Market and its merchants are not only committed to deliciously prepared foods, but to local farming communities, a healthy environment, and sustainable agriculture.

Poster Session Social—Monday June 17th 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Monday night poster session will include an evening social, poster awards, and raffle. What a great opportunity to discuss research with poster presenters and socialize with your colleagues. The social will offer a great selection of complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Auction—Monday June 17th 9:00-11:00 p.m.

Continue your socializing and support the ASM's Future Mammalogists Fund through donating to and purchasing from the auction! The Auction will follow the Poster Session Social. If you are interested in donating to the Auction, see the guidelines [here](#).

Pre-Banquet Social—Tuesday June 18th 6:00-7:00 p.m.

This is your invitation to meet and socialize with colleagues with complimentary light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar at the Pre-Banquet Social Hour.

Banquet (\$\$)—Tuesday June 18th 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Join us at the Annual Banquet where ASM members and friends recognize and honor a few of their own during our annual awards presentations. Unwind, socialize, and say good-byes at this conclusion to a great week. Dinner and a cash bar will be provided.

Q: How are the presentations organized?

A: *Plenary sessions* are special presentations by ASM award winners and keynote speakers. No other events or presentations are scheduled at the same time, so all members attend these sessions. *Symposia* are sessions that feature invited groups of speakers presenting on a specific, narrowly defined topic. These are often held concurrently with several *Technical Sessions*, which feature contributed talks (i.e., speakers submitted an abstract for consideration to present) organized by broad topic. *Poster Sessions* also feature contributed presentations and are held in the afternoon and evening of different days. Although the posters are hanging and available to peruse much longer, the authors attend their posters during the poster session to answer questions and discuss their research.

Q: Is it acceptable to move between rooms during sessions, or do I have to pick a session and stay there for the whole time?

A: It *is* acceptable to move between sessions so that you can see talks in many different sessions based on your interests. Session moderators are instructed to keep strictly to the schedule so that all talks in all sessions begin and end at the same time. *However*, if you do move between rooms during sessions, please do so only after the speaker is finished, and don't enter another room until the speaker there has finished. In other words, it is proper etiquette not to move while a presentation is ongoing. When

approaching the closed door of a session room, listen for the applause before entering.

Q: What is the Members' Meeting?

A: This is where most of the business of the society is completed, including elections, annual committee reports, deciding where future meetings will be held, and any proposed changes to the bylaws. Anyone may attend, but only Society members may vote. Attending is a good way to see how the society functions, get involved, and have input into the future of the society.

Q: It's meal time and I don't know anyone and am unsure where to go for lunch/dinner.

A: No worries! This year, anyone who is interested can meet at the student table near registration in the Franklin B Foyer at mealtime and we will check out some of the local (hopefully affordable) restaurants as one or more groups. No reason to eat alone or feel awkward, and this will be a good way to get to know other members. In addition to the several restaurants in the hotel and convention center, there are dozens of options within walking distance of the hotel, including the entrance to the historic farmer's market, The Reading Terminal Market, which is located across from the hotel.

Q: What is the 15th Annual Gordon L. Kirkland Memorial Run/Walk for Research?

A: This 5K run or 2K run/walk will be held on Monday, 17 June at 6:00 a.m. and will follow Rocky Balboa's famous route (maps will be provided). You may register on-line or during registration hours at the Registration Desk for \$20 (no t-shirt); \$35 (includes t-shirt).

All proceeds go to the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) – Future Mammalogists Fund, which provides research grants to undergraduate and graduate student members.

Q: What size should my poster be? How much time do I have for a talk?

A: Remember that the size of the poster board will be 4-feet high x 4-feet wide (1.22 M high x 1.22 M wide). The bottom edge of the poster boards are approximately 30 inches (76.2cm) off the floor. Push pin or Velcro attachments will be provided. Consider extending the life of your presentation by depositing it in the open access repository—F1000 Posters! Go to <http://f1000.com/posters/fordepositors> for information. Upload your file and maximize the value of your conference presentations.

For oral presentations you will have 12 minutes for your presentation with 3 minutes for questions. Please bring your presentation to the assigned session at least 15 min prior to the start of your session on a USB Flash “thumb” drive or a CD. The computers used for presentations will not have internet access. Laser pointers will be available. Session moderators have been designated to facilitate each session.

Q: Is Wifi available?

A: Yes. The Philadelphia Marriott lobby and public areas have complimentary wireless, but not available in the conference area. There is also a twitter hashtag for the conference this year: #ASMP Philly

Q: Are there nearby fun things to do?

A: The convention center hosts a website: <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel-guide/phldt-philadelphia-marriott-downtown/> full of area events, local eateries, shopping, and historic locations not to be missed! We have also posted a list compiled by one our ASM members on the ASM meeting page. Or, you can look for information at the Student table and other locations in the Franklin B Foyer!

Q: If I am unable to attend, will you refund my fees? What is the cancellation policy?

A: A refund, minus a \$50 administrative fee, will be issued if notice of cancellation is received by the Division of Continuing Education by May 31, 2013. After that date, due to guarantees we must provide, refunds are not available. Registrants who do not cancel their registration are responsible for the registration fee even if they do not attend the symposium and have not paid the registration fee.

Q: What are the dates and locations for future conferences?

94th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists, June 6, 2014 - June 10, 2014 Meeting at Oklahoma City Renaissance Convention Center Hotel and Spa.

Attend the second Members' Meeting to see a preview of the 2015 meeting location!